

THE OUTLOOK

news and views from the city of Spring Hill, Kansas

CITY TO BID FAREWELL TO ASSISTANT CHIEF

After 27 years in law enforcement, it's time for Spring Hill Assistant Police Chief Brian Holmes to take a new direction, he said.



Holmes

Holmes, a 10-year veteran of the department, is set to retire from law enforcement at a public reception Sept. 14 before the City Council meeting at the Spring Hill Community Center, 613 S. Race St., Spring Hill.

"I'm content with 27 years," Holmes said. "I've done everything I've ever wanted to do in this job. I think I've done enough. You always think you could do more probably but I don't have any regrets. I think it's worked out the way it's supposed to. My path was the way God wanted it to go and that's the way it went."

Flashback to 1985 and Holmes is graduating high school. Nearly two months later, he enlisted in the United States Army.

"It was the first time ever really away from



home and my family," Holmes said. "When I graduated basic training and AIT, they sent me to Baumholder, Germany, which was the largest concentration of U.S. troops in Europe at the time. I spent just about two years there. I came home, spent about 30 days at home, and then came out to Fort Leavenworth to finish my last year of service. I joined the Army to see the world and all I saw was a mountain-top in Germany and the Great Plains of the U.S."

"I can't complain. The military gave me a lot that I probably couldn't have got in junior college or college. It gave me a purpose, a discipline. It gave me the basis for my law enforce-

ment career because I was a military police officer in the Army. It taught me a lot about service."

Holmes then kick started his career in law enforcement with the Leavenworth County Sheriff's Office, where he worked his way through various positions.

"I learned a lot about police work there," Holmes said. "I learned how to talk to people because I worked in the jail for a long time, five years. I wound up being promoted to sergeant and got sent to patrol. I came back to the jail as a jail commander because we were short-staffed in administration. I was given a K9 and I ran the SWAT team. There was a lot of

stuff I did there and it gave me a good foundation of what I wanted to do with the rest of my life."

When Hurricane Katrina wreaked havoc across the southeast part of the country in 2005, Holmes worked for Blackwater Security, a government contractor, protecting Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and its assets in Louisiana.

By 2007, he started work with the Spring Hill Police Department as an officer, where he was promoted to sergeant almost immediately. A year later, Holmes, alongside now-Chief Richard Mann, quickly got to work revamping the city's police department.

"When I got here, we were working out of construction trailers behind City Hall," Holmes said. "Our cars were not that good. Accommodations weren't that good. Our uniforms weren't that good. Our policy manual lacked a lot of things. I saw the potential in the organization. It just wasn't there when I started. Then Richard [Mann] came along and we hired him

as an officer then he got promoted to sergeant. He and I worked well together as sergeants. We got things developed, a plan of attack in how to change the perception of the police department in the city. I worked on the officers and the internal policies and the way the department works. He worked on taking care of the public image and changed [that]. From there, we changed our patch, our uniforms, our patrol car graphics, everything. We just did a complete overhaul."

Mann agreed that their work together has changed the department for the best, he said.

"After four months of being a patrol officer, I was promoted to sergeant and that's where Brian and I really began a friendship," Mann said. "We both worked together and changed the department's image with the public and other agencies. We believe we have an outstanding department filled with highly-qualified men and women."

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contact us

City Hall (temporary)

102 S. Main St.
P.O. Box 424
Spring Hill, KS 66083
Main Phone: (913) 592-3664
Municipal Court: (913) 592-3624
Utility Billing: (913) 592-3626

Police Department

418 E. Nichols St.
Spring Hill, KS 66083
Phone: (913) 592-2700

Public Works and Community Development (temporary)

502 E. Nichols St.
Spring Hill, KS 66083
Public Works: (913) 592-3317
Community Development:
(913) 592-3657
After-hours emergencies:
(913) 247-3521

Online

www.springhillks.gov
[f /springhillks](https://www.facebook.com/springhillks)
[@springhillks](https://twitter.com/springhillks)

Governing Body

Mayor Steven M. Ellis
steven.ellis@springhillks.gov

Council President Chris Leaton
chris.leton@springhillks.gov

VACANT POSITION

Term ends January 2020

Floyd Koder
floyd.koder@springhillks.gov

Andrea Hughes
andrea.hughes@springhillks.gov

Scott Snively
scott.snively@springhillks.gov

THE CITY OF
Spring Hill
KANSAS

2018 Operating Budget approved

The annual city budget process is an opportunity to match a financial plan to the community's needs. The City of Spring Hill's 2018 budget, approved unanimously by the City Council at its August 24 meeting, achieves this balance.

In 2017, Spring Hill's valuation increased approximately 8.8 percent, which provides an impact on the 2018 budget. The 2018 budget maintains a level mill levy to support city services. A one mill increase for 2018 is the result of contracted fire services affecting those residents not within Johnson County Fire District No. 2's taxing district.

The contracted fire service area includes central and southern Spring Hill.

The 2018 budget earmarked dollars for city service and process enhancements, to include a parks maintenance position and a wastewater utility position, updated public safety in-car video systems and mobile data terminals (MDT), an upgrade to the outdoor storm warning siren system, continued vehicle and equipment replacement in various departments and utility line maintenance and rehabilitation as well as scheduled upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant, which continues to be a priority.

The 2018 budget provides continued support for United Community Services of Johnson County (UCS), the Spring Hill Chamber of Commerce, the Spring Hill Green Board, Miami County Conservation District, and the Spring Hill Public Safety Advisory Board. It also increased support for the Johnson County Utility assistance program, which also serves residents in Miami County, and increased allocation dedicated to the maintenance of the Spring Hill Cemetery through the Spring Hill Cemetery Board.

For more information on the budget, visit www.springhillks.gov

City seeking applicants for boards

Interested in serving your city?

The City of Spring Hill is seeking applicants for various board positions throughout the city.

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

This board has the duty to hear appeals to the Spring Hill zoning regulations. Meetings are held at the call of the Chair. There are two positions open.

CEMETERY BOARD

This board is responsible for managing, operating, maintaining and improving Spring Hill's cemetery. Meetings are held at the call of the chair. There are two positions open.

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD

This board, an advisor to the police and fire chiefs, studies, recommends and reviews policy programs and concepts used in other communities, which are designed to help improve cooperation among the police, fire officials and the community. There is one open position for this board.

To apply for the position, visit www.springhillks.gov/180/boards-and-commissions for an application. Applications must be submitted to City Hall, Attn. City Clerk, 401 N. Madison, PO Box 424, Spring Hill, KS 66083.

Fifth annual Luau draws record crowds



(Photo courtesy of Todd Riggins)

The Spring Hill Aquatic Center hosted its Fifth Annual Family Luau Aug. 12, which attracted more than 250 guests. The event included games, giveaways, swim time, a catered meal, music and a special showing of Moana in the Aquatic Center Park, hosted by the Spring Hill Recreation Commission.

City Hall's temporary digs showcased in historic photograph of hardware store

Recognize this place? You're looking at the inside of Hogue's Store, 102 S. Main St., Spring Hill, in the 1940s, where City Hall is temporarily housed during the Civic Center revitalization. Pictured from left to right: Lorili, Mr. and Mrs. Hogue, Josephine Wiswell, Gerry Avery and Alice Dey.



Disruption of water 'aesthetics' possible for September

Beginning this month, Miami County Rural Water District 2, the City's water supplier, will conduct their annual Free Chlorine Burn-out to the water distribution system.

This will cause some disruption in the aesthetics of the water including the taste and smell of chlorine and possibly discoloration of the water.

"This is an acceptable method of disinfection that is being monitored at the water treatment plant, as well as throughout the City of Spring Hill's water distribution system," Jim Boyer, utility superintendent for Spring Hill, said. "Although this process is necessary for water distribution system quality assurance as annual routine maintenance, the water is safe to drink during this process, is tested daily and meets Kansas Department of Health and Environment chlorine residual guidelines."

The Free Chlorine Burn-out began Sept. 1 and is expected to last through Sept. 30.

HOLMES: AC to take on role in corporate world

(Continued from Page 1)

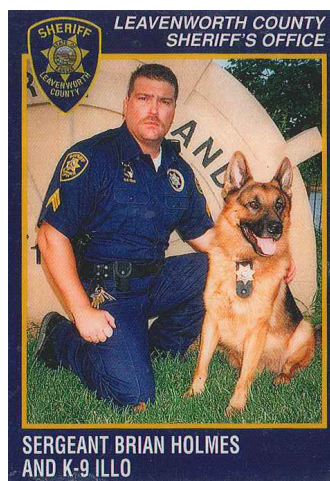
That progress, along with other accolades, landed Holmes the city's first-ever assistant police chief position in 2014, not long after the new Spring Hill Police Department opened on Nichols Street.

"I'm proud of that," he said. "I'm honored that the Mayor and City Council and Chief Mann had faith in me to take it and run with it. It's been a joy. I love coming to work. It's a great community. I think the city is heading in the right direction, I really do. It's an exciting time and it's growing."

Throughout their 10 years together, spending time with Holmes daily will be something Mann said he will miss the most.

"This time consisted of bouncing ideas off each other on how to improve the officers, department and relationship with the public," Mann said. "It consisted of us working out together at the gym and discussing ideas on improving ourselves in leadership and management. Brian was my confidant and I will miss being able to see him and just talk in person. Everyone has a Brian in their group, but not like this Brian."

"Brian is passionate and empathetic," Mann said. "He is tender. I have seen the softer side of him. He is strong, confident, disciplined and goal-oriented. Brian



likes to educate and instruct others to be better. Brian's best quality is that he is a big teddy bear. I have quite a few memories with Brian and they all bring a smile to my face and a tear, for he will be missed."

As far as retirement goes, Holmes won't stray too far from his spot at the Spring Hill Police Department, where he hopes to start a reserve program.

"I'll be around once or twice per month, being seen patrolling, helping out and helping run with Chief [Mann] firearms ranges and stuff like that," Holmes said. "... I think that's great because I just change roles and try to help the department in a different way and try to find quality guys and gals to come in and be reserves

and volunteer their time so the City gets extra protection for free. It would be really cool to have that happen."

He will also take on the role of lead instructor with Frontier Justice, a firearms retailer centered on shooting sports and an "authentic American lifestyle," according to the business' website. Soon after, Holmes will become the director of training for all locations as the company expands across the region.

"Their motto is faith, family and freedom and it's pretty cool because those are kind of the values I've always had," Holmes said.

Holmes also is looking forward to spending more time with his wife and children, he said.

"I gave 27 years to this career," Holmes said. "I gave my youth. I made a lot of sacrifices. I missed holidays, birthdays, anniversaries and stuff because of shift work. I want to be able to do something for my family that I couldn't otherwise do. This is going to afford me the opportunity to do stuff financially for my kids and my wife that I think they deserve."

"It's tough," he said of his retirement. "I'm walking away from something that's the only thing I've ever done. Since I've graduated high school, this is the only job I've ever known how to do is being a cop."

REMINDER

All trash service will be one day late due to the Labor Day holiday. Pickup will be Saturday, Sept. 9.

SEPTEMBER 2017 CITY CALENDAR



04

Labor Day | City offices closed in observance of the holiday. We will reopen 8 a.m. Sept. 5. For utility emergencies, call (913) 247-3521.

04

Public Safety Advisory Board meeting canceled in observance of Labor Day holiday.

05

Spring Hill Municipal Court
| 8:30 a.m. | Spring Hill Community Center

07

Large item trash day: Miami County | Call (913) 631-3300 at least 48 hours in advance to schedule pickup.

07

Planning Commission meeting | 7 p.m. | Spring Hill Community Center

07

Broadband Task Force special meeting | 7 p.m. | Spring Hill Police Department, 418 E. Nichols St.

14

City Council meeting | 7 p.m. | Spring Hill Community Center

18

Parks Advisory Board (Green Board) meeting | 7 p.m. | Location to be determined. Check www.springhillks.gov for updates.

19

Spring Hill Municipal Court | 8:30 a.m. | Spring Hill Community Center.

26

Broadband Task Force meeting | 7 p.m. | Community Center

27

Large item trash day: Johnson County | Call (913) 631-3300 at least 48 hours in advance to schedule pickup.

28

City council meeting | 7 p.m. | Community Center



30 Fall Festival

Be sure to watch for City boards, staff, and elected officials during the 62nd Annual Spring Hill Fall Festival! At 10 a.m., line up along Webster Street to catch candy from the Governing Body as elected officials and staff participate in the parade. Then, stop by City Park to check out the Green Board's recycled material sculpture contest until 1 p.m. City staff will also have a booth benefiting the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund complete with snacks, water, a hands-on art project and more. Visit www.springhillfallfestival.org for more information on the event.